GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:454
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
PROMOTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Singh Shri Ganesh;Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to promote higher education in the country including rural and tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of students likely to be benefited from the same;

(c) the amount allocated for overall development of higher education during the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the Government has taken an initiative for the upliftment of higher education at par with other developed countries;and

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a)to(e): The thrust of the policy underlying the XIth Plan for Higher Education is on increasing access to quality higher education while ensuring equity.A new Scheme for Reduction in Regional Imbalances,Social Gaps and Promotion of Inclusiveness in Higher Education has been introduced by the University Grants Commission in the XI Plan,which will serve the rural and tribal areas as well.Central Universities have been established in all the States in the North-Eastern Region including in States with predominately tribal population.In addition,during the XI Plan a Central University will be established in each of those States where there is no Central University.374 new colleges are proposed to be established one in each district where the Gross Enrolment Ratio is lower than the national average.A scheme has also been drawn up to provide grants on a sharing basis to the universities and colleges which are not eligible for central assistance under the University Grants Commission Act,1956 including those located in tribal areas. There are also schemes for scholarships for Scheduled Tribe students and construction of girls' hostels in Colleges and Universities serving areas of low access to higher education.In addition, the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University has been established,with its headquarters at Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh,to provide avenues of higher education and research facilities primarily for the tribal population of the country.The University is empowered to open such number of Regional Centres and Campuses in tribal areas as the University may deem fit.

In the XI Plan, a target has been set to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of the students in the eligible age group of 18-24 years in higher education by 5 percentage points by the end of XI Plan.Provision for infrastructural and other requirements for this purpose is required to be made by Central and State Governments.Within the constraint of availability of resources an amount of Rs.84,943 crores has been provided by the Central Government in the XI Plan for various schemes for enhancing access to quality higher education,while ensuring equity.Various reforms measures such as introduction of semester system,credit transfer, rationalization of admission procedure for Ph.D. programmes have also been initiated.

The Plan allocation during the years from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for the Department of Higher Education is as under:-

Year	Rs. in crores
2005-06	1817.00
2006-07	2530.50
2007-08	6483.00
2008-09	7600.00